

either indoors or outdoors, unless an administrative official of the school provides notice of the planned application to parents and guardians of children that attend the school not later than 48 hours before the application of the pesticide.

(2) NOTICE.—The notice described in paragraph (1)—

(A) shall include—

(i) a description of the intended area of application; and

(ii) the name of each pesticide to be applied; and

(B) shall indicate whether the pesticide is a known carcinogen, a developmental or reproductive toxin, or a category I or II acute nerve toxin.

(3) INCORPORATION OF NOTICE.—The notice described in paragraph (1) may be incorporated in any notice that is being sent to parents and guardians at the time at which the pesticide notice is required to be sent.

SEC. 506. SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING A SAFE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that:

(1) Every school child in America should have a safe learning environment free from violence and illegal drugs.

(2) Violence and illegal drugs in the schools undermine a safe and secure learning environment.

(3) Any instance of violence or illegal drugs in schools is unacceptable and undermines the efforts of Congress, State and local governments and school boards, and parents to provide American children with the best education possible.

(4) In the last 12 months, there have been at least 50 people killed or injured in school shootings in America.

(5) From 1992 through 1998, the number of referrals made by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for Federal firearms prosecutions fell 44 percent, which resulted in a 40-percent drop in prosecutions and a 31-percent decline in convictions, allowing criminals to remain on the streets preying on our most vulnerable citizens, including our children.

(6) From 1996 to 1998, the Justice Department only prosecuted an average of seven persons per year for illegally transferring a handgun to a juvenile.

(7) Since 1992, the percentage of 8th grade students using marijuana, cocaine, and heroin in the past 30 days has increased 162 percent, 86 percent, and 50 percent, respectively, according to the respected Monitoring the Future survey.

(8) The February 29, 2000, shooting at Buell Elementary School in Mount Morris Township, Michigan, is evidence that gun violence in American schools continues, that the drug culture contributes to youth violence, and that the breakdown of the American family has contributed to the increase in violence among American children.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the reauthorization of the Safe and Drug-Free Schools program that Congress soon will be considering should target the elimination of illegal drugs and violence in our schools and should encourage local schools to insist on zero-tolerance policies towards violence and illegal drug use.

SEC. 507. REDUCTION IN SCHOOL VIOLENCE.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the "School Violence Reduction Act".

(b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that:

(1) Every school child in America has a right to a safe learning environment free from guns and violence.

(2) The United States Department of Education report on the Implementation of the Gun-Free Schools Act found that 3,930 chil-

dren were expelled for bringing guns to school during the 1997-98 school year.

(3) Nationwide, 57 percent of the expulsions were high school students, 33 percent were in junior high and 10 percent were in elementary school.

(c) GRANTS.—The Secretary of Education shall award grants to elementary and secondary schools (as such terms are defined in section 14101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 8801)) to enable such schools to—

(1) develop and disseminate model programs to reduce violence in schools,

(2) educate students about the dangers associated with guns, and

(3) provide violence prevention information (including information about safe gun storage) to children and their parents.

(d) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant under subsection (b), an elementary or secondary school shall prepare and submit to the Secretary of Education an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

(e) PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS.—The Secretary of Education shall provide for the development and dissemination of public service announcements and other information on ways to reduce violence in our Nation's schools, including safe gun storage and other measures.

(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the purpose of carrying out this section, there are authorized to be appropriated funds of up to \$7,000,000 for fiscal year 2001 and such sums as may be necessary for each of the four succeeding fiscal years.

Mr. COVERDELL. I move to reconsider the vote and move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO AMENDMENT NO.

2869

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the clerk be authorized to make technical conforming corrections to Roth amendment No. 2869.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent there be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, we are about to begin the heavy lifting on the Patient Bill of Rights Conference Committee, and I wanted to come to the Floor of the Senate and lay out some of the key concerns and principles that should guide us in the coming month.

First, I want to take a minute and compliment my colleague, Senator NICKLES, for his fine work over, really, the last 3 years. He has been a dedicated leader on this issue.

I am confident that as chair of the conference, he will conduct a fair and orderly process for this conference.

We are ready. Many of us have worked on most of these provisions for

several years. I and my Republican Senate conferees, for one, have worked over the last several months to educate ourselves on the House bill.

Let me be clear. We want a substantive conference. As I have said, we have already rolled up our sleeves, and I think we can work through this complex bill and meet the deadline of completing this bill by the end of March. That is our goal and with the cooperation of every Senator and House Member on this committee, I believe we can meet this goal.

The stakes are high. I don't think it is an exaggeration to say that the very future of medical care in this country hinges on what we do in this next month.

From the very basic and practical question of who a patient calls for help when there is a concern about coverage or some aspect of their health plan—to the delivery of that care by doctors or other health professionals—to who regulates these fundamental health insurance issues—all of these issues will be greatly affected by this bill.

First, do no harm. This is the doctor's oath. I believe we serve Americans badly if at the end of the day we do not adhere to that same rule.

That is why we cannot enact a bill that unreasonably increase the cost of insurance. We cannot leave American families with no choice but to drop their insurance altogether.

Even in our strong economy—the strongest economy that this country has seen since WWII—the number of uninsured Americans has increased by about another 1 million. The latest census numbers available show that 44.3 million Americans were without coverage in 1998. That is one American in six.

And employers are facing increases in health care costs this year of as much as 7.3 percent. Small businesses are struggling with even much higher cost increases. Costs are rising for American employers who want to continue providing coverage to their employees.

For better or worse, managed care has been the main instrument in this country for making health care more affordable for a vast number of Americans. If we price these products out of the market, with regulations, mandates and lawsuits, the effect will be crippling.

We recently heard from some fairly large employers who said that if the House-passed bill were enacted, they would stop offering employees health insurance altogether—resulting in more uninsured.

These aren't just some unrecognizable companies with a few employees. Companies like Wal Mart, which employs 800,000 employees, have indicated they would drop health coverage.

The Chamber of Commerce announced they would have no choice but to recommend to their member companies to drop health insurance if the House-passed bill were enacted into law in its current form.